

What is claimed is:

1 1. A foldable electronic apparatus comprising
2 a first part;
3 a second part; and
4 an elastic sheet having a first end fixed to said first part, a second end fixed to
5 said second part, and a longitudinal axis extending from said first end to said second end, said
6 elastic sheet being foldable transversely of said longitudinal axis so that said first part is
7 pivotable with respect to said second part, said elastic sheet, when folded transversely of said
8 centerline, loading said first part away from said second part toward a longitudinally unloaded
9 position of said sheet.

10 2. The foldable electronic apparatus of claim 1, wherein said sheet is
11 curved transversely of said centerline at at least one of said first and second ends.

12 3. The foldable electronic apparatus of claim 2, wherein at least one of said
13 first and second parts comprises a curved slot which receives said at least one of said first and
14 second ends.

15 4. The foldable electronic apparatus of claim 2, wherein said sheet is
16 curved transversely of said centerline at both of said ends.

1 5. The foldable electronic apparatus of claim 4, wherein, when said sheet is
2 in said longitudinally unloaded position, said sheet is curved transversely of said axis from said
3 first end to said second end.

1 6. The foldable electronic apparatus of claim 5, wherein each of said first
2 and second parts comprises a curved slot which receives a respective one of said first and
3 second ends.

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2209

1 10. The foldable electronic apparatus of claim 8, wherein said first angle is
2 substantially equal to said second angle.

1 11. The foldable electronic apparatus of claim 8, wherein each of said first
2 and second angles is between about 15 and about 30 degrees.

1 12. The foldable electronic apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a
flexible printed circuit element extending from said first part to said second part adjacent to
said elastic sheet.

2 13. The foldable electronic apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an
elastomeric sheath on said elastic sheet.

1 14. The folding electronic apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus is a
2 mobile telephone.

1 15. The folding electronic apparatus of claim 1, wherein said elastic sheet
2 comprises at least two layers with an electrical connection between said first and second parts
3 between said layers.

1 16. The folding electronic apparatus of claim 1, wherein, in said
2 longitudinally unloaded position, said first end is oriented less than 180 degrees from said
3 second end.